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## *Et tu, Picoides*? UNDERSTANDING WHY BIRD NAMES CHANGE

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ABTRACT -The scientific names and standardized English names of birds change over time. We explore the prevalence of name changes for the birds of Tennessee since 1998, when the 7th edition of the Checklist of North American Birds was released (AOU 1998) and investigate the reasons for these changes. Of the 409 bird species in Tennessee, the scientific names of 116 species (28%) changed at least once. Of these changes, 89 were due to generic reallocation in which one or more species were moved into a different or new genus to reflect the evolutionary relationships of these species. Seventeen changes in the scientific name (15%) were due to the splitting of one species into two or more species. Species splits were generally based on multiple lines of evidence, including genetic, morphological, and behavioral data. Eight standardized English names changed. English names changed to reflect species splits or to align with worldwide usage. New data and continued study will further reshape our understanding of the evolutionary history of birds and of species delimitations and introduce additional name changes.

Key words: birds, nomenclature, phylogenetics, scientific name, systematics, taxonomy

Even casual birders are aware that the names of birds change over time. Sometimes it is a bird's standardized English name that changes. Standardized (or "official") names are

those that have been adopted by a governing body or professional scientific organization such as the American Ornithological Society (AOS). These are the "common names" that you will find in a field guide. While often considered synonymous with standardized names, the concept of common names is broader and encompasses names used by regional communities and other languages besides English. Examples of recent standardized name changes include replacing the long-used and familiar Rock Dove with Rock Pigeon in 2003 and updating the controversial name of Oldsquaw to the Long-tailed Duck in 2000. These recent name changes are not a modern phenomenon. Many readers might fondly recall the days when the Northern Harrier was known as the Marsh Hawk and the Blue-headed Vireo was the Solitary Vireo. Some might also remember when the Peregrine Falcon was known as the Duck Hawk and the American Kestrel was known as the Sparrow Hawk. In addition to changes of standardized English names, the scientific names of birds (sometimes referred to as a bird's Latin name) are also subject to revision. Perhaps most disappointing to birders and researchers in the United States is the loss of the genus *Dendroica* and its assimilation into *Setophaga*. For some, these changes can be confusing and unsettling, and birders sometimes lament the loss of these names and wonder why scientists continually change the names of some of our favorite species. Why do bird names change? In this paper, we aim to explain why the names of birds change and to understand both the prevalence of name changes and the reasons for these changes as they affect the birds of Tennessee.

Taxonomy is the scientific study of the classification of organisms, and the related field of nomenclature is the applied practice of naming organisms. The ultimate goal of modern taxonomy and nomenclature is to mirror evolutionary history and to depict how life evolved from a common ancestor. This pattern is often depicted as an evolutionary tree, with the common ancestor as the original trunk of the tree and the branches as the species that have descended from it. Scientists use the fossil record, DNA and molecular evidence, and morphological features to better understand evolutionary history. Defining and delineating species is not a trivial task. Taxonomists work to delineate species and to discern whether two populations are subspecies of a single species or two separate species. There is no universally accepted standard on how to define them theoretically or operationally, and the issue is one of rank: at what point should two distinctive populations be considered full species instead of subspecies? For example, the Baltimore Oriole (*Icterus galbula*) and Bullock's Oriole (*I. bullockii*) were previously lumped as a single species, the "Northern Oriole", until 1995 but are now classified as separate species. Conversely, since 1973, "Myrtle Warbler" in the Eastern US and "Audubon's Warbler" in the west have been considered two subspecies of a single species, the Yellow-rumped Warbler (*Setophaga coronata*). The Yellow-rumped Warbler also includes two other subspecies, "Goldman's Warbler" in Guatemala and "Black-fronted Warbler" in Mexico, that are sometimes treated as species. As new data are obtained, our understanding of these relationships sometimes changes. Accordingly, the taxonomy and nomenclature will reflect this new knowledge, and species names will change.'

In addition, changes in the evolutionary tree rely on definitions of what a species is and what separates one species from another. In fact, scientists around the world often disagree on how to define a species, and because of this many species concepts exist (Mayden 1997).

The two most commonly used concepts are the Biological Species Concept (Mayr 1942) and the Phylogenetic Species Concept (Cracraft 1983). The Biological Species Concept defines a species as a group of interbreeding or potentially interbreeding populations that are reproductively isolated from other groups (Mayr 1942). It makes sense that if two populations cannot interbreed, they should not belong to the same species. There are, however, limitations to this species concept, and hybrids are particularly problematic (Häuser 1986). Waterfowl hybridize often, meaning that many species of waterfowl are capable of interbreeding but are not necessarily the same species. Two species might be lumped back into one species if the two groups successfully interbreed or show little genetic differentiation.

Phylogenetics is the study of taxa (biological groups) and their evolutionary relationships (Nixon and Wheeler 1990). The Phylogenetic Species Concept defines a species as a group of individuals that share an exclusive evolutionary history (Nixon and Wheeler 1990). Unfortunately, there are also drawbacks to this species concept. First, this concept can be applied *very* specifically, resulting in many more divisions (and species) in the evolutionary tree than there are currently. For instance, the number of named bird species in the world might increase based on small taxonomic differences between current subspecies, not because new species are being discovered (Isaac et al. 2004). However, recent research has shown that this predicted taxonomic inflation is not occurring in birds (Sangster 2009a). Despite known occurrences of hybridization, the Tufted Titmouse was considered conspecific with the Black-crested Titmouse until 2002. While the two populations could interbreed and hybridize, genetic data indicated that each population had unique traits that were not shared by the other population. As a result, they were split into two separate species.

Rearrangements of the evolutionary tree do not occur only at the species level. For example, the Lapland Longspur, Smith's Longspur, Chestnut-collared Longspur, and Snow Bunting were all considered to be members of Emberizidae, the Bunting family. However, these four species share few genetic similarities with other Emberizids and were thus split into a new family, Calcariidae (Alstrom et al. 2008, Klicka et al. 2003). Without genetic data, it was difficult to determine that these species belong in a separate family. With the ever-increasing amount of genetic data available, evolutionary biologists are able to estimate the relationships between species more clearly than is possible with morphological evidence alone. These higher-level changes, however, do not affect a bird's English or scientific name and are not addressed further here.

In this paper we examine the birds of Tennessee and document which species names have changed since 1998, when the 7th edition of the Checklist of North American Birds was released (AOU 1998) and investigate why these changes have occurred.

## METHODOLOGY

The American Ornithological Society (AOS, formerly American Ornithologist's Union, AOU) maintains a check-list of North American birds from the Arctic to Panama, including the West Indies and Hawaiian Islands. The most current edition of the check-list, the

seventh, was published in 1998 (AOU 1998). Since 1998, the AOS and AOU have published 19 supplements (Banks et al. 2000, 2002, 2003a, 2003b, 2005, 2006, 2007, 2008, Chesser et al. 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2009, 2010) that update all taxonomic changes for species in North America. Suggested taxonomic changes are submitted, along with a rationale and evidence, and the North American Classification Committee reviews each proposed change to decide what nomenclatural changes are warranted. AOS is also responsible for establishing standardized English names of birds.

We used the 2014 Official List of the Birds of Tennessee compiled by the Tennessee Bird Records Committee and available from the Tennessee Ornithological Society (http://www.tnbirds.org/TBRC/TBRC_checklist.html) to identify bird species that breed in, winter in, migrate through, or are accidental species in the state of Tennessee. We examined all 19 supplements since publication of the latest check-list (AOS 1998) to identify taxonomic changes in the scientific or standardized names for each of the 409 species in the Official List. When a name change was found, we recorded the date, whether the scientific or English name or both changed, and reason for the change. We found several reasons for name changes (Table 1): 1) a change can occur from the *lumping* of two species into a single species; 2) a change can occur from the *splitting* of one species into two or more species; 3) a change can occur from a *generic reallocation* in which one or more species are moved into a different or new genus; 4) the *English name* alone can be changed; and 5) *grammatical changes* can occur, which include changes of the scientific names for nomenclatural "housekeeping" to conform to standards set by the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature. The data behind these changes varied from case to case but could include genetic (e.g., DNA) information, morphological (different physical appearance) data, reproductive isolation (incapable of interbreeding), and behavior (e.g., song).

## RESULTS

Scientific Name Changes. - Of the 409 bird species in Tennessee, 116 species (28%) experienced at least one change in scientific name (Table 2). Of these changes, 89 were due to generic reallocation. An example is the transfer of Garganey, Blue-winged Teal, Cinnamon Teal, and Northern Shoveler from the genus Anas to the genus Spatula in 2017. The genus Anas was deemed "paraphyletic," meaning some birds in the genus were more closely related to other genera (Gonzalez et al. 2009)geese, swans, the magpie goose and screamers. The genus Anas was therefore split, with the shovelers and some teals moved to the previously recognized Spatula while other species, such as Mallard, Northern Pintail, and Green-winged Teal, remained in Anas. Interestingly, some species underwent more than one generic reallocation during the study period. In 2011, the Tennessee Warbler, Orange-crowned Warbler, and Nashville Warbler were transferred from the genus Vermivora to the genus Oreothlypis but in 2019 these three warblers were moved from Oreothlypis to Leiothlypis since it was found that species in Oreothlypis formed two well differentiated clades with significant genetic differences (Lovette et al. 2010). The generic reallocation of 89 species accounted for 77% of all name changes.

**Table 1**. Reasons for change in scientific names with examples for the birds of Tennessee.

| Reason for change | Description | Number | Example | **Citation** |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Lumping | Combination of two or more species into one species | 1 (1%) | Lumping of Thayer's Gull (*Larus thayeri*) into Iceland Gull (*Larus glaucoides)* | (Snell 1989) |
| Splitting | Division of one species into two or more species | 17 (15%) | Black Scoter (*Melanitta americana)*: Treated as a separate species from Common Scoter (*Melanitta nigra)* | Sangster (2009b) |
| Generic Reallocation | One or more species are moved into a different or new genus | 89 (77%) | Snow Goose: Change in genus from *Chen caerulescens* to *Anser caerulescens* | Ottenburghs et al. (2016) |
| Grammatical Change | Changes of Latin name to fit proper gender | 8 (7%) | Purple Gallinule: Change from *Porphyrio martinica* to *Porphyrio martinicus* | Gibson and Baker (2012) |

**Table 2**. Birds of Tennessee that have had a change in the scientific name, standardized English name, or both from 2000 to 2019 with the year and reason for the name change.

| Standardized English name | Scientific name | Year | Reason |
|---|---|---|---|
| Snow Goose | *Anser caerulescens* | 2017 | Generic reallocation |
| Ross's Goose | *Anser rossii* | 2017 | Generic reallocation |
| Cackling Goose | *Branta hutchinsii* | 2004 | Species split |
| Garganey | *Spatula querquedula* | 2017 | Generic reallocation |
| Blue-winged Teal | *Spatula discors* | 2017 | Generic reallocation |
| Cinnamon Teal | *Spatula cyanoptera* | 2017 | Generic reallocation |
| Northern Shoveler | *Spatula clypeata* | 2017 | Generic reallocation |
| Gadwall | *Mareca strepera* | 2017 | Generic reallocation |
| Eurasian Wigeon | *Mareca penelope* | 2017 | Generic reallocation |
| American Wigeon | *Mareca americana* | 2017 | Generic reallocation |
| White-winged Scoter | *Melanitta fusca* | 2019 | Species split |
| Black Scoter | *Melanitta americana* | 2010 | Species split |
| Long-tailed Duck | *Clangula hyemalis* | 2000 | English name only |
| Rock Pigeon | *Columba livia* | 2003 | English name only |
| Band-tailed Pigeon | *Patagioenas fasciata* | 2003 | Generic reallocation |
| Common Ground Dove | *Columbina passerina* | 2019 | English name only |
| White-winged Dove | *Zenaida asiatica* | 2002 | Species split |
| Chuck-will's-widow | *Antrostomus carolinensis* | 2012 | Generic reallocation |
| Eastern Whip-poor-will | *Antrostomus vociferus* | 2012 | Generic reallocation |
| Mexican Violetear | *Colibri thalassinus* | 2008 | English name only |
| Calliope Hummingbird | *Selasphorus calliope* | 2012 | Generic reallocation |
| Clapper Rail | *Rallus crepitans* | 2014 | Species split |
| King Rail | *Rallus elegans* | 2014 | Species split |
| Purple Gallinule | *Porphyrio martinicus* | 2012 | Grammar |
| Common Gallinule | *Gallinula galeata* | 2011 | Species split |
| Sandhill Crane | *Antigone canadensis* | 2016 | Generic reallocation |
| Snowy Plover | *Charadrius nivosus* | 2011 | Species split |
| Ruff | *Calidris pugnax* | 2017 | Generic reallocation |
| Buff-breasted Sandpiper | *Calidris subruficollis* | 2017 | Generic reallocation |
| Wilson's Snipe | *Gallinago delicata* | 2002 | Species split |
| Spotted Sandpiper | *Actitis macularius* | 2004 | Grammar |
| Willet | *Tringa semipalmata* | 2006 | Generic reallocation |
| Red Phalarope | *Phalaropus fulicarius* | 2002 | Grammar |
| South Polar Skua | *Stercorarius maccormicki* | 2001 | Generic reallocation |
| Bonaparte's Gull | *Chroicocephalus philadelphia* | 2008 | Generic reallocation |
| Black-headed Gull | *Chroicocephalus ridibundus* | 2008 | Generic reallocation |
| Little Gull | *Hydrocoloeus minutus* | 2008 | Generic reallocation |
| Laughing Gull | *Leucophaeus atricilla* | 2008 | Generic reallocation |
| Franklin's Gull | *Leucophaeus pipixcan* | 2008 | Generic reallocation |

| Standardized English name | Scientific name | Year | Reason |
|---|---|---|---|
| Ring-billed Gull | *Larus delawarensis* | 2008 | Generic reallocation |
| California Gull | *Larus californicus* | 2008 | Generic reallocation |
| Herring Gull | *Larus argentatus* | 2008 | Generic reallocation |
| Iceland Gull | *Larus glaucoides* | 2008 | Species lump |
| Lesser Black-backed Gull | *Larus fuscus* | 2008 | Generic reallocation |
| Glaucous Gull | *Larus hyperboreus* | 2009 | Generic reallocation |
| Great Black-backed Gull | *Larus marinus* | 2010 | Generic reallocation |
| Sooty Tern | *Onychoprion fuscatus* | 2006 | Generic reallocation |
| Least Tern | *Sternula antillarum* | 2006 | Generic reallocation |
| Gull-billed Tern | *Gelochelidon nilotica* | 2006 | Generic reallocation |
| Caspian Tern | *Hydroprogne caspia* | 2006 | Generic reallocation |
| Royal Tern | *Thalasseus maximus* | 2006 | Generic reallocation |
| Band-rumped Storm-Petrel | *Oceanodroma castro* | 2019 | Generic reallocation |
| Great Shearwater | *Ardenna gravis* | 2017 | Generic reallocation |
| Brown Pelican | *Pelecanus occidentalis* | 2008 | Species split |
| Least Bittern | *Ixobrychus exilis* | 2010 | Species split |
| Roseate Spoonbill | *Platalea ajaja* | 2002 | Generic reallocation |
| Northern Harrier | *Circus hudsonius* | 2017 | Species split |
| Snowy Owl | *Bubo scandiacus* | 2003 | Generic reallocation |
| Belted Kingfisher | *Megaceryle alcyon* | 2007 | Generic reallocation |
| Downy Woodpecker | *Dryobates pubescens* | 2018 | Generic reallocation |
| Red-cockaded Woodpecker | *Dryobates borealis* | 2018 | Generic reallocation |
| Hairy Woodpecker | *Dryobates villosus* | 2018 | Generic reallocation |
| Northern Shrike | *Lanius borealis* | 2017 | Species split |
| Red-eyed Vireo | *Vireo olivaceus* | 2018 | Species split |
| Barn Swallow | *Hirundo rustica* | 2000 | Grammar |
| Cave Swallow | *Petrochelidon fulva* | 2000 | Grammar |
| Black-capped Chickadee | *Poecile atricapillus* | 2000 | Grammar |
| Tufted Titmouse | *Baeolophus bicolor* | 2002 | Species split |
| House Wren | *Troglodytes aedon* | 2006 | Generic reallocation |
| Winter Wren | *Troglodytes hiemalis* | 2010 | Species split |
| Bewick's Wren | *Thryomanes bewickii* | 2006 | Generic reallocation |
| Pine Siskin | *Spinus pinus* | 2009 | Generic reallocation |
| American Goldfinch | *Spinus tristis* | 2009 | Generic reallocation |
| Lapland Longspur | *Calcarius lapponicus* | 2010 | Generic reallocation |
| Chestnut-collared Longspur | *Calcarius ornatus* | 2010 | Generic reallocation |
| Smith's Longspur | *Calcarius pictus* | 2010 | Generic reallocation |
| McCown's Longspur | *Rhynchophanes mccownii* | 2010 | Generic reallocation |
| Snow Bunting | *Plectrophenax nivalis* | 2010 | Generic reallocation |
| Bachman's Sparrow | *Peucaea aestivalis* | 2010 | Generic reallocation |
| Black-throated Sparrow | *Amphispiza bilineata* | 2010 | Generic reallocation |

| Standardized English name | Scientific name | Year | Reason |
|---|---|---|---|
| American Tree Sparrow | *Spizelloides arborea* | 2015 | Generic reallocation |
| Dark-eyed Junco | *Junco hyemalis* | 2017 | Species split |
| LeConte's Sparrow | *Ammospiza leconteii* | 2018 | Generic reallocation |
| Nelson's Sparrow | *Ammospiza nelsoni* | 2018 | Generic reallocation |
| Henslow's Sparrow | *Centronyx henslowii* | 2018 | Generic reallocation |
| Ovenbird | *Seiurus aurocapilla* | 2003 | Grammar |
| Worm-eating Warbler | *Helmitheros vermivorum* | 2004 | Grammar |
| Louisiana Waterthrush | *Parkesia motacilla* | 2010 | Generic reallocation |
| Northern Waterthrush | *Parkesia noveboracensis* | 2010 | Generic reallocation |
| Blue-winged Warbler | *Vermivora cyanoptera* | 2010 | Multiple |
| Tennessee Warbler | *Oreothlypis peregrina* | 2011 | Generic reallocation |
| Orange-crowned Warbler | *Oreothlypis celata* | 2011 | Generic reallocation |
| Nashville Warbler | *Oreothlypis ruficapilla* | 2011 | Generic reallocation |
| Connecticut Warbler | *Oporornis agilis* | 2011 | Generic reallocation |
| MacGillivray's Warbler | *Geothlypis tolmiei* | 2011 | Generic reallocation |
| Mourning Warbler | *Geothlypis philadelphia* | 2011 | Generic reallocation |
| Kentucky Warbler | *Geothlypis formosa* | 2011 | Generic reallocation |
| Hooded Warbler | *Setophaga citrina* | 2011 | Generic reallocation |
| Kirtland's Warbler | *Setophaga kirtlandii* | 2011 | Generic reallocation |
| Cape May Warbler | *Setophaga tigrina* | 2011 | Generic reallocation |
| Cerulean Warbler | *Setophaga cerulea* | 2011 | Generic reallocation |
| Northern Parula | *Setophaga americana* | 2011 | Generic reallocation |
| Magnolia Warbler | *Setophaga magnolia* | 2011 | Generic reallocation |
| Bay-breasted Warbler | *Setophaga castanea* | 2011 | Generic reallocation |
| Blackburnian Warbler | *Setophaga fusca* | 2011 | Generic reallocation |
| Yellow Warbler | *Setophaga petechia* | 2011 | Generic reallocation |
| Chestnut-sided Warbler | *Setophaga pensylvanica* | 2011 | Generic reallocation |
| Blackpoll Warbler | *Setophaga striata* | 2011 | Generic reallocation |
| Black-throated Blue Warbler | *Setophaga caerulescens* | 2011 | Generic reallocation |
| Palm Warbler | *Setophaga palmarum* | 2011 | Generic reallocation |
| Yellow-rumped Warbler | *Setophaga coronata* | 2011 | Generic reallocation |
| Yellow-throated Warbler | *Setophaga dominica* | 2011 | Generic reallocation |
| Prairie Warbler | *Setophaga discolor* | 2011 | Generic reallocation |
| Black-throated Gray Warbler | *Setophaga nigrescens* | 2011 | Generic reallocation |
| Townsend's Warbler | *Setophaga townsendi* | 2011 | Generic reallocation |
| Black-throated Green Warbler | *Setophaga virens* | 2011 | Generic reallocation |
| Canada Warbler | *Cardellina canadensis* | 2011 | Generic reallocation |
| Wilson's Warbler | *Cardellina pusilla* | 2011 | Generic reallocation |
| Blue Grosbeak | *Passerina caerulea* | 2002 | Generic reallocation |
| Lazuli Bunting | *Passerina amoena* | 2005 | Generic reallocation |

Seventeen changes in the scientific name (15%) were due to the splitting of one species into two or more species, including the splitting of Common Gallinule (*Gallinula galeata*) in the Americas from Common Moorhen (*G. chloropus*) in Eurasia, based on differences in vocalizations and bill morphology (Constantine 2006), and DNA evidence (Groenenberg et al. 2008). Another example includes the splitting of Clapper Rail into multiple species. Previously Clapper Rail was long treated as a wide-ranging species comprising multiple subspecies. Phylogenetic data and evidence of reproductive isolation between the subspecies led the species to be split into three species (Maley and Brumfield 2013, Chesser et al. 2014). The nominate subspecies (*Rallus longirostris longirostris*) was found to be restricted to the mangroves and marshes of Central and South America, and the form is now known as the Mangrove Rail. The North American subspecies *R. l. crepitans* was elevated to species and kept the standardized name Clapper Rail.

The Black Scoter (*Melanitta americana*) in North America was formerly recognized as a subspecies of the Old World Common Scoter (*M. nigra*), but due to differences in mating calls it is now recognized as a distinct species (Sangster 2009b). In this case the standardized English name used by the AOS was unchanged while the species name was updated. Similarly, the Northern Harrier (*Circus hudsonius*) was split from the Hen Harrier (C. cyaneus) based on morphology, plumage, and breeding habitat (Etherington and Mobley 2016) and the scientific name changed while the use of the name Northern Harrier was retained. Only one (1%) change was due to the lumping of two species into one: the lumping of "Thayer's Gull" into Iceland Gull (*Larus glaucoides*).

Of the 18 species-level changes, three (16%) were due solely to genetic evidence, seven (38%) were based on reproductive isolation and morphology, and eight (44%) were due to a combination of both genetic and morphological data. Eight (7%) changes were due to grammatical changes or nomenclatural housekeeping, which include changes of the scientific name so that the gender of the genus aligns with the gender of the species. For instance, the name of the Red Phalarope was changed from *Phalaropus fulicaria* to *Phalaropus fulicarius* and the name of Spotted Sandpiper from *Actitis macularia* to *Actitis macularius* to align the gender of the specific epithet with the gender of the genus to conform to standards set by the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature.

*Standardized English Name Changes.* - Eight standardized English names changed since 1998. North American populations of the Common Moorhen were changed to the previously used Common Gallinule following a splitting of the species between the New and Old World forms. In 2002, differences in vocalizations and morphology resulted in the splitting of Common Snipe (*Galligano galligano*) into two species, which resulted in the recognition of a new species, *G. delicata,* now known as Wilson's Snipe. The Mexican Violetear, *Colibri thalassinus,* was formerly considered conspecific with *C. cyanotus.* When they were lumped together, the held the common name of "Green Violetear." However, due to differences in plumage the two species were split: *C. thalassinus* was given the name Mexican Violetear and *C. cyanotus* was given the name Lesser Violetear (Remsen et al. 2015).

Four species underwent a change in their English name with no change in the scientific name or in the overall taxonomy of the bird. The Greater Shearwater (*Ardenna gravis*)

became Great Shearwater to align better with worldwide usage (Chesser et al. 2014). The Common Ground-Dove (*Columbina passerina*) lost its hyphen to better conform with the AOS guideline for English names and is now Common Ground Dove (Chesser et al. 2019). In 2003, Rock Dove (*Columba livia*) was changed to Rock Pigeon to conform with British nomenclature, following the British Ornithologist's Union's decision in 1992. Nelson's Sparrow (*Ammospiza nelsoni*) was renamed from Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow because the name was "considered unnecessarily cumbersome" (Chesser et al. 2009). Also, the Oldsquaw was changed to Long-tailed Duck. This species is listed as "vulnerable" under the IUCN red list. To better conserve the species, conservationists needed the help of Native Americans and thus changed the name to Long-tailed Duck (Banks et al. 2000). The term "squaw" is considered by some to be offensive, and the name was changed to reflect increasing cultural sensitivity, to promote inclusivity, and to conform to worldwide usage.

## DISCUSSION

A bird's scientific name can be changed, its English name can be changed, or both. Several issues can bring about these kinds of change: two species can be lumped into one, one species can be split into two or more, or a species or higher taxonomic group might be incorrectly placed on the evolutionary tree.

*Scientific Name Changes*

We found that 77% of all taxonomic change in birds of Tennessee occurred due to generic reallocation. While defining a new species might be "sexier" than the rearrangement of the evolutionary tree, above-species-level reorganization is the primary and prominent driver of changes in the scientific names of Tennessee's birds. For instance, three of our woodpeckers, the Downy, Red-cockaded, and Hairy woodpeckers, were formerly placed in the genus *Picoides*. Genetic analyses have shown, however, that all species in this genus have not descended from the same common ancestor (Fuchs and Pons 2015, Shakya et al. 2017, Weibel and Moore 2002a, 2002b; Winkler et al. 2014). These woodpeckers were thus moved to the genus *Dryobates* (Fig. 1). These phylogenetic rearrangements can reveal surprising relationships and new insights (Shakya et al. 2017). Downy Woodpecker and Hairy Woodpecker, for example, are not especially closely related (Fig. 2), and their morphological similarity results not from shared ancestry but from natural selection, perhaps convergent evolution or interspecific mimicry (Leighton et al. 2018). Shakya et al. (2017) used citizen science data from Project FeederWatch to test hypotheses to explain this plumage similarity and concluded that Downy Woodpeckers do not avoid attacks from Hairy Woodpeckers but instead benefit from other species mistaking them for Hairy Woodpeckers. Remarkably, this interspecific mimicry in plumage patterns appears to occur repeatedly in woodpeckers (Benz et al. 2015, Shakya et al. 2017, Miller et al. 2019) and in other avian groups (Weckstein 2005, Jønsson et al. 2010). These insights would not have been possible without understanding the evolutionary history of these groups, and this example illustrates the importance of updating bird names to reflect our understanding of their evolutionary history.

At the species level, changes in the scientific are driven by splitting a single species into two or more species and only rarely by lumping two species into a single species. This finding is consistent with those of Vaidya et al. (2018), who found that splitting rates have accelerated and lumping rates have decreased since the 1970s. The evidence for splitting species is multifaceted. Molecular data are just as prevalent as morphological, reproductive, and behavioral evidence, and in many cases, multiple lines of evidence are used to warrant splitting species.

*English Name Changes*

For English names, it was a combination of scientific discovery, desire for nomenclatural consistency, and cultural sensitivity that provoked change. While changes via scientific reasoning are expected, the change of Rock Dove to Rock Pigeon was based mainly on the decision to align the US name for the bird with the British name. The change from Oldsquaw to Long-tailed Duck conforms to worldwide usage and reflects increased cultural sensitivity and aims to promote inclusivity and participation of Native Americans to better protect the species. Such changes certainly add a human element to these nomenclatural changes.

This study is limited by both time and area. Only the years 2000-2019 were analyzed, and only the birds of Tennessee were studied. Future work could expand the breadth of this study to all bird species of North America or globally. Another topic to look into is to compare the year of the change with the evidence used to support the change to determine whether modern scientific techniques (e.g., DNA and molecular evidence) are increasingly being used compared to more traditional evidence from morphology and behavior. Our findings demonstrate how fluid and incomplete our understanding of the evolutionary history of birds is. New data and continued study will surely introduce additional name changes. So stay tuned!

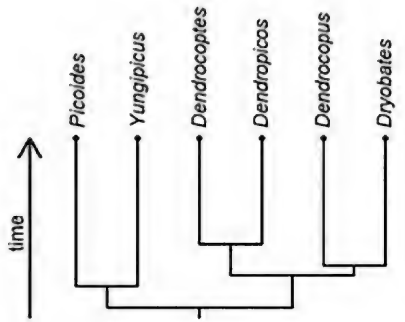


**Figure 1.** Evolutionary tree showing the distant relationship between *Picoides* and *Dryobates* woodpeckers. The genus *Picoides* includes American Three-toed Woodpecker and Black-backed Woodpecker. *Dryobates* includes Downy, Ladder-backed, Red-cockaded, and Hairy woodpeckers, and all three were previously classified as *Picoides. Picoides* is most closely related to *Yungipicus,* the pygmy woodpeckers native to Asia. *Dryobates* is most closely related to *Dendrocopus,* a genus of Eurasian and north African species that includes the Great Spotted Woodpecker. *Dryobates* is also more closely related to two other genera than it is to *Picoides. Dendrocoptes* includes three Eurasian species, including the Middle Spotted Woodpecker, and *Dendropicos* is a genus of sub-Saharan African woodpeckers that includes the Cardinal Woodpecker.

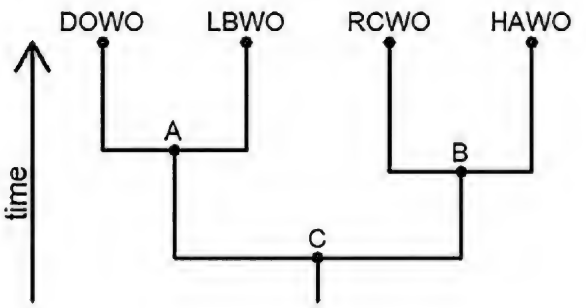


**Figure 2.** Evolutionary tree of *Dryobates* woodpeckers. Downy Woodpecker (DOWO) and Hairy Woodpecker (HAWO) are not sister taxa. Downy Woodpecker is more closely related to Ladder-backed Woodpecker (LBWO), sharing a common ancestor at node A. Hairy Woodpecker is more closely related to Red-cockaded Woodpecker (RCWO), having a common ancestor at node B. Downy and Hairy woodpeckers share a more distant ancestor (node C), and their morphological similarity is due to evolutionary convergence or mimicry, not to shared ancestry. For simplicity, not all *Dryobates* species are included.

**ACKNOWLEDGMENTS**

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# REPORT OF THE TENNESSEE BIRD RECORDS COMMITTEE, 2019

Ruben Stoll
Pleasantville, Tennessee

It is the job of the Tennessee Bird Records Committee (TBRC) to maintain the Official List of the Birds of Tennessee and to ensure that sightings of rare species are documented accurately and adequately for posterity. This list, along with the by-laws of the committee and information for submitting documentation, may be viewed in the TBRC section of the TOS website. Current members of the committee are Phillip Casteel, Ron Hoff, Daniel Jacobson, David Kirschke (alternate), Chris Sloan, Ruben Stoll (secretary), and Terry Witt. We wish to thank all who have taken the time to document and submit rare bird records. Many of these reports are accompanied by photographic documentation, which is especially valuable to the work of the committee.

Following is a report of the actions of the TBRC as of 2019. If a submitted record that is not included in this list it is probably still under review. Please note, a species is considered provisional if it is not verified by an extant specimen, extant photograph or sound recording, or the written documentation of threeindependent observers of a species or of the same individual bird.

**Common Eider** (*Somateria mollissima*)

Written documentation and photo of one female submitted by Jackie Corbin; Snow Bunting Peninsula, Old Hickory Lake, Davidson County, 11 November 2017. This is a first state record. Accepted 6 - 0.

**Ferruginous Hawk** (*Buteo regalis*)

Written documentation and photo of an immature submitted by Mark Greene; Jolly Landing, Lake County, 25 January 2018. Accepted 6 - 0.

**Cave Swallow** (*Petrochelidon fulva*) - 3 different records

Written documentation and photo of two individuals by Jeff Wilson; mouth of the Wolf River, Shelby County, 30 September 2006. Documentation submitted by Mark Green. This a first state record. Accepted 6 - 0.

Written documentation submitted by Mark Greene; Booth Point, Dyer County, 14 May 2015. Accepted 6 - 0.

Written documentation and photo of at least one bird submitted by Mark Greene; Great River Road, section between Highway 104 and Bradley Road, Dyer County, 5 May 2017. Accepted 6 - 0.

**Black-and-white Warbler** (*Miniotitla varia*)

Written documentation and photo submitted by Mark Ray; Seven Islands State Birding Park, Knox County, 13 December 2017. Accepted 6 - 0.

**Black-capped Petrel** (*Pterodroma hasitata*)

Written documentation and photo submitted by Mike Todd; Pickwick Lake, Bruton Branch, Hardin County, 13 September 2017. This is first state record. Accepted 6 - 0.

**Brown Noddy** (*Anous stolidus*)

Written documentation of an immature submitted by Mike Todd and Mark Greene; Pickwick Lake, Bruton Branch, Hardin County, 13 September 2017. This is a state provisional record. Accepted 5 - 1.

**Virginia's Warbler** (*Leiothlypus virginiae*)

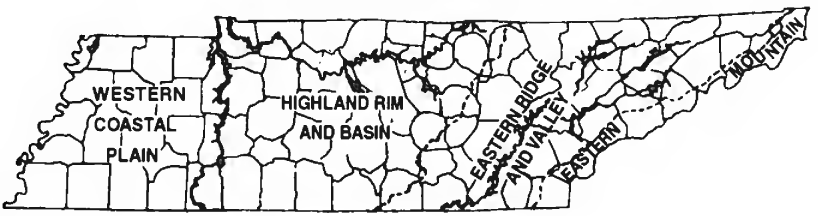
Written documentation and photo submitted by Bambi Fincher; Riverfront Greenbelt, Sullivan County, 19 January 2019. This is a first record. Accepted 6 – 0.

**Reddish Egret** (*Egretta rufescens*)

Written documentation of one adult submitted at Mud Lake, Lake County, 12 May 2017. Record rejected with concern about the date and sufficient details to eliminate Little Blue Heron (lacking photo). Rejected 6 – 4.

# THE SPRING SEASON

Richard L. Knight, Editor




**1 March - 31 May 2019**

Flooded fields along the Mississippi River attracted remarkable numbers and variety of shorebirds. Among the 32 species found was a Curlew Sandpiper in Lake County, the third record for the state. Other notables included Ruff, Whimbrel, Hudsonian Godwit, Marbled Godwit, Ruddy Turnstone, and Red-necked Phalarope. Most notable among the high counts were the astonishing numbers of Long-billed Dowitchers in Dyer and Lauderdale counties which shattered the previous state high count. Good numbers of Willets appeared statewide.

A mini-invasion of Black-bellied Whistling-Ducks occurred in the Ridge and Valley, with another found in Davidson County. Common Mergansers bred again in East Tennesse, and a new late spring date was set by a Lesser Black-backed Gull in Davidson County. Neotropic Cormorants appeared in Humphreys and Gibson counties. Besides occurring in West Tennessee, Anhingas returned to last year's nest site at Duck River Unit, and another was seen in Trousdale County. Brown Pelicans were seen at Duck River Unit and near Chattanooga, while West Tennessee hosted all three ibis species.

Western Kingbirds returned to nest sites in Shelby County, while another was seen in Lake County, and Scissor-tailed Flycatchers returned to several known nesting sites in three regions. Three separate male Western Tanagers appeared at feeders in as many regions, an unprecedented number in the state. Connecticut Warblers were found in three regions, also. White-winged Dove, Harris's Sparrow, and Yellow-headed Blackbird were notable in West Tennessee. Painted Buntings were found in Middle and East Tennessee.

**Standard Abbreviations**

ad - adult
Co - County
Cr - Creek
ers - earliest reported sighting
im - immature
L - Lake
lrs - latest reported sighting
max - maximum count
m.ob. - many observers
Mtn - Mountain
NWR - National Wildlife Refuge
R - River
SNA - State Natural Area
SP - State Park
WMA - Wildlife Management Area
yg - young

WESTERN COASTAL PLAIN REGION - - Temperatures and precipitation across the region were the usual mixed bag. March was cooler by 3.5 degrees and drier than normal by an inch. April saw average temperatures but experienced 2.5 inches of rain above normal. May was warmer by 2 degrees but had average rainfall.

The Mississippi River reached flood stage, backing up tributaries in most of the region's northwestern counties. Tens of thousands of acres of farmland and timber were under water for most of the period. Particularly hard hit were Lauderdale, Dyer, and Lake counties. While a nightmare for farmers and homeowners, it provided a boon for migrating shorebirds, and an impressive total of 32 species was reported. Lake County hosted a Curlew Sandpiper and Whimbrel along with three Red-necked Phalaropes. Lauderdale County had astounding numbers of Long-billed Dowitchers and a single Ruff. Both Hudsonian and Marbled Godwits were found in Crockett County, with two Marbled Godwits also seen in Shelby County.

Dyer County produced a Cinnamon Teal and a Western Tanager. A Say's Phoebe continued from winter in Shelby County, which also saw a pair of Osprey complete a nest, a rare occurrence there. Other interesting finds included Fulvous Whistling-Ducks in two counties, a White-winged Dove, and a Neotropic Cormorant.

Thanks to everyone who submitted observations, especially those with photographs.

*Duck - Rail*: **Black-bellied Whistling-Duck**: 20 Mar (6) Ensley (DL), ers; 12 Apr (80) North Treatment Plant (MCT); 13 May (4) Lake Co (DR, AL). **Fulvous Whistling-Duck**: 8 Apr - 30 May (1-2) Ensley (RS, VS, m.ob.); 16-17 May (1) Robinson Bayou (Peggy Blair / MAG). **Cinnamon Teal**: 25-26 Apr (1 male) Chic Rd (TPJ, photo, m.ob.). **Black Scoter**: 22 May (2) Gibson Co L (MAG). **Horned Grebe**: 8-14 Apr (2) Great River Rd (RS, VS, m.ob.). **Eared Grebe**: 8-9 Apr (2, breeding plumage) Great River Rd (RS, VS, DR). **White-winged Dove**: 2-3 May (1) Lake Co (RS, VS, AT / MAG). **Black-billed Cuckoo**: 15 May (1) Fritz Landing (MAG). **Ruby-throated Hummingbird**: 1 Apr (1) Haywood Co (Bob Ford), ers. **Virginia Rail**: 8 Apr / 5 May (1) Ensley (RS, VS / RH, Hal Mitchell).

*Shorebirds*: **Black-necked Stilt**: 31 Mar (2) Ensley (Michael Jones), ers; also reported in Lauderdale, Dyer, and Lake Cos; 26 Apr (58) Chic Rd (MCT), max in northern Cos. **Black-bellied Plover**: 19 Apr (1) Lake Co (MAG); 25 Apr / 8 May (11 / 22) Chic Rd (MAG, MCT, RS, VS); 1 May (14) Bogota WMA, Dyer Co (MAG); 1-2 / 9 May (6 / 11) Robinson Bayou (MAG, MCT, m.ob. / RS, VS); 7 May (5) Hwy 88 bottoms (RS, VS); 9 May (42) Great River Rd (RS, VS), new high count in state; 13 May (2) Gibson Co L (MAG); 20 May (12) Chic Rd (DR), lrs. **American Golden-Plover**: 13 Mar (2) Robinson Bayou (MAG), ers; 1 Apr (500+) Great River Rd (TPJ), max; 25 Apr (29) Chic Rd (MAG, MCT, RS, VS). **Semipalmated Plover**: 7 May (147) Hwy 88 bottoms (RS, VS); 9 May (253) Dyer Co (RS, VS), new high count in state. **Killdeer**: 4 Mar (1100) Crockett Co (MAG); 8 Mar (1200) Robinson Bayou (MAG), max. **Upland Sandpiper**: 12 Apr (1) Ensley (VS); 13-14 Apr (1) Great River Rd (RS, VS, DDP); 16 Apr (1) Lower Hatchie NWR, Lauderdale Co (DDP); 17 Apr (1) Lake Co (MAG). **Whimbrel**: 2 May (1) Lake Co (RS, VS, AT, MAG). **Hudsonian Godwit**: 15 Apr (4) Johnny Powell Rd, Crockett Co (MAG et al., photo). **Marbled Godwit**: 12 Apr (2) Ensley (MCT); 15 Apr (1) Johnny Powell Rd, Crockett Co (MAG). **Ruddy Turnstone**: 15

Apr (1) Johnny Powell Rd, Crockett Co (MAG). **Ruff**: 13-14 Apr (1) Hwy 88 bottoms (RS, VS, photo / MCT, DDP). **Stilt Sandpiper**: 8 Apr (1) Great River Rd (RS, VS, DR), ers; 6 May (31) Ensley (MCT); 8 May (115) Hwy 88 bottoms (RS, VS), new spring max in state. **CURLEW SANDPIPER**: 1-2 May (1, breeding plumage) Robinson Bayou (MCT, MAG, photos, m.ob.), 3rd state record. **Sanderling**: 19 Apr (1) Hwy 88 bottoms (RS, VS, AT), rare in spring. **Dunlin**: 28 Apr (47) Chic Rd (DDP); 1 / 17 May (100+ / 180) Robinson Bayou (MAG, MCT, m.ob.); 2 May (120) Hwy 88 bottoms (RS, VS). **Baird's Sandpiper**: 8 Apr (1) Great River Rd (RS, VS, DR); 13 Apr (1) Hwy 88 bottoms (RS, VS); 27 May (1) Great River Rd (DR). **White-rumped Sandpiper**: 2-20 May (3-70) Robinson Bayou (MCT, RS, VS, AT, DR); 5-6 May (1-4) Ensley (MGH, MCT); 7-8 May (7-15) Hwy 88 bottoms (RS, VS); 7 May (10) Pioneer Farm Rd, Lake Co (RS, VS, DR). **Semipalmated Sandpiper**: 17 May (1500) Robinson Bayou (MAG), max. **Western Sandpiper**: 1 May (1) Robinson Bayou (MAG, MCT). **Short-billed Dowitcher**: 12 Apr (1) North Treatment Plant (MCT), ers; 15 May (59) Robinson Bayou (MAG), max. **Long-billed Dowitcher**: 13 Mar (2) Tumbleweed WMA, Lake Co (MAG), ers; 8 Apr (116) Great River Rd (RS, VS, DR); 13-14 / 25 Apr (530 / 875) Hwy 88 bottoms (RS, VS, MCT); 25-26 Apr (1500 - 1790) Chic Rd (MAG, MCT, RS, VS / DDP); 2 / 15 May (120 / 2) Robinson Bayou (MCT, RS, VS, AT / MAG), lrs. **Lesser Yellowlegs**: 26 Apr (2200) Chic Rd (DDP), max. **Willet**: 9 Apr (2) Great River Rd (Kent Freeman, MAG); 25 Apr - 4 May (1) Robinson Bayou (MAG, MCT, RS, VS); 26 Apr (17) Reelfoot L (MCT); 6 May (5) Hwy 88 bottoms (MCT); 27 May (65) Paris Landing SP (Sherry Winstead, photo). **Wilson's Phalarope**: 13 Apr (1) Great River Rd (RS, VS); 14 Apr (1) Hwy 88 bottoms (RS, VS); 25-28 Apr (2-3) Chic Rd (MAG, MCT, RS, VS, DDP); 29 Apr / 5-6 May (1 / 4-12) Ensley (Curt Hofer / MGH, m.ob.); 1-2 May (10) Robinson Bayou (MAG, MCT, m.ob.). **Red-necked Phalarope**: 1 May (3) Robinson Bayou (Glen Criswell, photo).

*Gull - Falcon*: **Franklin's Gull**: 1 May (1) Reelfoot L (MCT). **Black Tern**: 2 May (1) Lake Co (RS, VS, AT, MAG), ers. **Common Tern**: 11 May (17) Paris Landing SP (RS, VS, AT). **Red-throated Loon**: 18 Mar (1) Paris Landing SP (DR). **Common Loon**: 2 May (1) Hwy 88 bottoms (RS, VS, AT); 2-3 May (1) Gibson Co L (MAG); 7 May (1) Dyer Co (RDH, DMy). **Neotropic Cormorant**: 22 May (1) Gibson Co L (MAG), 1st at this site. **Anhinga**: 12 Apr (1) Eagle L, Shelby Co (MCT); 14 Apr (1) Lauderdale / Dyer Co line (DDP); 17 Apr (1) Macedonia Bottoms, Gibson Co (MAG); 6 May (1) Ensley (MCT); 7 May (3) Pioneer Farm Rd, Lake Co (RS, VS, DR); 8 May (1) Shelby Forest (DDP, MTOS). **American White Pelican**: representative reports; 18 Mar (23) Tennessee R, Decatur Co (RS); 7 Apr (19) Arlington, Shelby Co (Larry Chitwood); 11 Apr (70) Britton Ford (AL); 16 Apr / 4 May (168 / 375) Great River Rd (DDP / MCT); 3 May (800) Tiptonville Landing, Lake Co (MAG), max; 9 May (23) Gibson Co L (MAG); 13 May (128) Lake Co (DR); 27 May (112) Dyer Co (DR). **American Bittern**: 30 Mar (1) Haywood Co (Bob Ford); 15 Apr (1) Fap Rd, Dyer Co (MM); 17 Apr (1) Hwy 103, Dyer Co (MAG); 19 Apr (1) Hooper Marsh, Dyer Co (MAG); 28 Apr (1) Chic Rd (DDP). **Least Bittern**: 20 May (2) Reelfoot L (DR); 20 May (2) Walnut Log, Obion Co (DR, AL). **Little Blue Heron**: 12 Apr (1) Ensley (RS, VS), ers. **Tricolored Heron**: 17-19 Apr (1) Dyer Co (TPJ, m.ob.). **Cattle Egret**: 1 Apr (2) Great River Rd (TPJ), ers. **White Ibis**: 26 Apr (3 ad) Hatchie NWR (David Hill, photo). **Glossy Ibis**: 5 May (1)

Ensley (MGH, m.ob., photo). **White-faced Ibis**: 6 May (1) Dyer Co (TPJ); 27 May (1) Big Levee Rd, Dyer Co (DR). **Plegadis sp.**: 16 May (1) Ensley (BFo); 30 May (1) Great River Rd (MAG). **Osprey**: 15 Apr (2, nest building) North Watkins slough, Shelby Co (Andrea Cowart, photo), rare breeder in county. **Mississippi Kite**: 16 Apr (1) Lower Hatchie NWR, Lauderdale Co (DDP), ers. **"Harlan's" Red-tailed Hawk**: 10 Mar (1) Ensley (Jim Varner), lrs at wintering site. **Rough-legged Hawk**: 11 Mar (1) Jolly Landing, Lake Co (DR), lrs at wintering site. **Peregrine Falcon**: 3 Apr / 7 May (1) Great River Rd (TPJ / RS, VS); 12 Apr (1) Ensley (MCT); 14 / 26 Apr (1) Hwy 88 bottoms (DDP / MCT); 25 Apr (1) Chic Rd (MAG, MCT, RS, VS); 27 Apr (1) Hatchie NWR (DDP); 2 May (1) Robinson Bayou (RDH, DMy); 2 May (1) Hwy 412 / Forked Deer R, Dyer Co (MCT); 11 May (1) Paris Landing SP (RS, VS, AT).

*Flycatcher - Sparrow*: **Western Kingbird**: 17 Apr (1) T.O. Fuller SP (DL); 24 Apr (1) North Treatment Plant (DL); 28-29 Apr (1) Levee Phillipy Rd, Lake Co (Brainard Palmer-Ball et al., photo / MAG); 6-30 May (2) Ensley (MCT); 6 / 7 May (11 / 18) President's Island, Shelby (MCT / RS, VS). **Scissor-tailed Flycatcher**: 28 Apr (3) western Hardin Co (RS, VS); 17 May (1) Ensley (DL). **Great Crested Flycatcher**: 10 Apr (1) Arlington, Shelby Co (Larry Chitwood), ers. **Olive-sided Flycatcher**: 7 May (1) Great River Rd (RS, VS, DR); 9 May (1) Gibson Co L (MAG); 20-24 May (1) Fritz Landing (DR, AL, m.ob.). **Yellow-bellied Flycatcher**: 21 May (1) Fritz Landing (MAG). **Alder Flycatcher**: 20-21 May (1) Fritz Landing (DR, AL, MAG). **Say's Phoebe**: from winter thru 8 Mar (1) Shelby Farms, Shelby Co (Michael Jones, m.ob.). **White-eyed Vireo**: 27 Mar (1) Overton Park, Shelby Co (BFo), ers. **Bell's Vireo**: 5-21 May (1-2) Thorny Cypress WMA, Dyer Co (Allan Trently, m.ob.); 6 May (1) Mt. Orange, Gibson Co (MAG). **Blue-headed Vireo**: 6 Mar (1) Busseltown Unit, Tennessee NWR, Decatur Co (RS, VS), ers. **Fish Crow**: 12 Mar (1) Camden landfill, Benton Co (DR); 9 Apr / 6 May (2) Elkhorn Rd Swamp, Henry Co (DR); 11 Apr (13) Britton Ford (AL). **Red-breasted Nuthatch**: 6 May (1) Hardeman Co (RDH, DMy), lrs. **Blue-gray Gnatcatcher**: 15 Mar (2) T.O. Fuller SP (BFo), ers. **Gray Catbird**: 12 Mar (1) Britton Ford (DR), ers. **American Tree Sparrow**: 4 Mar (11) Black Slough, Lake Co (DR, AL, photo); 11 / 18 Mar (7) Phillipy, Lake Co (DR). **Lark Sparrow**: 12 Apr (2) Eagle L, Shelby Co (MCT); 26 Apr thru season (1-3 at several sites) Gibson Co (MAG); 28 Apr (1) Chic Rd (DDP); 30 Apr / 23 May (1) Crockett Co (MAG); 1 May (2) Lake Co (MAG, MCT). **Harris's Sparrow**: 19-23 Mar (1) Shelby Co (Robert Woodend, photo fide Martha Waldron).

*Blackbirds - Dickcissel*: **Yellow-headed Blackbird**: 2 May (1 male) Robinson Bayou (AT). **Western Meadowlark**: 21 Mar (5) North Garrett Sawmill Rd, Obion Co (MAG), lrs at wintering site. **Brewer's Blackbird**: 19 Apr (1 female) Phillipy Pits, Lake Co (MAG), lrs. **Blue-winged Warbler**: 11 Apr (1) Britton Ford (AL), ers. **Golden-winged Warbler**: 22 Apr (1) Moss Island WMA, Dyer Co (DR); 26 Apr (1) Lauderdale Co and (1) Dyer Co (MCT); 6-7 May (1) Great River Rd (DR, RS, VS). **Prothonotary Warbler**: 6 Apr (2) Hatchie NWR (Larry Chitwood), ers. **Swainson's Warbler**: 3 Apr (1) Shelby Forest (DL), ers. **Tennessee Warbler**: 10 Apr (1) Shelby Forest (BFo), ers. **Nashville Warbler**: 13 Apr (1) Shelby Forest (RS, VS), ers. **Connecticut Warbler**: 7 May (1) Great River Rd (RS, VS, DR); 14 May (1)

Munford, Tipton Co (DDP). **Mourning Warbler**: 1 May (1) Walnut Log, Obion Co (MCT); 20 May (1) T.O. Fuller SP (BFo, RH). **Kentucky Warbler**: 10 Apr (1) Shelby Forest (BFo), ers. **Hooded Warbler**: 5 Apr (1) Shelby Forest (BFo), ers. **Northern Parula**: 31 Mar (1) Wolf R Greenway, Shelby Co (Jim Varner), ers. **Yellow-throated Warbler**: 30 Mar (2) Reelfoot L (AL), ers. **Black-throated Green Warbler**: 25 Mar (1) Busseltown Unit, Tennessee NWR, Decatur Co (AT), ers. **Canada Warbler**: 31 May (1) Wolf R Greenway, Shelby Co (Jim Varner), lrs. **Summer Tanager**: 10 Apr (1) Shelby Forest (BFo), ers. **WESTERN TANAGER**: 26-28 Apr (1 male, at feeder) Dyersburg, Dyer Co (Kathy Sellars, photo, m.ob.). **Blue Grosbeak**: 11 Apr (1) Britton Ford (AL), ers. **Painted Bunting**: 30 Apr thru season (1) Ensley (BFo, m.ob.); 6 / 20 May (1) President's Island, Shelby Co (MCT / Maureen Ellis). **Dickcissel**: 19 Apr (1) Lake Co (MAG), ers.

*Locations*: Britton Ford - Henry Co; Chic Rd - Dyer Co; Ensley - Shelby Co; Fritz Landing - Lake Co; Great River Rd - Dyer Co; Hatchie NWR - Haywood Co; Hwy 88 bottoms - Lauderdale Co; North Treatment Plant - Shelby Co; Paris Landing SP - Henry Co; Reelfoot L - Lake Co; Robinson Bayou - Lake Co; Shelby Forest - Shelby Co; T.O. Fuller SP - Shelby Co.

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HIGHLAND RIM AND BASIN REGION - - Temperatures in March averaged 1 degree cooler than normal, while April was warmer than normal by 3.1 degrees and May was warmer by 5.2 degrees. Precipitation in March was a half-inch below normal, with April receiving 2.3 inches more rainfall than normal, but May was drier at 3.9 inches below normal. Highlights this spring in Middle Tennessee included Black-bellied Whistling-Duck, Common Ground-Dove, Purple Gallinule, Wilson's Phalarope, Anhinga, Neotropic Cormorant, Swallow-tailed Kite, Painted Bunting, and a continuing Western Tanager.

*Waterfowl - Gallinule*: **Black-bellied Whistling-Duck**: 12 Apr (1) Harpeth R Greenway, Davidson Co (FF, GG). **Ross's Goose**: 2 Mar (2) Eagleville (KB). **Mallard x Northern Pintail**: 16 Mar (1 male) Bell's Bend (MS, PDC, photo). **Canvasback**: 8 Mar (55) Pickwick L (RS, VS), max. **Redhead**: 31 May (1 male) Hillsboro Pond, Coffee Co (Tommie Rogers), lrs. **Greater Scaup**: 2 Mar (30+) Dale Hollow L, Pickett Co portion (BSc, MM); 5 Mar (11) Fort Campbell, Stewart Co (DMo). **White-winged Scoter**: 13 Mar (1) Fort Campbell, Stewart Co (DMo); 23 Mar (4) Old Hickory L, Wilson Co portion (JN). **Common Goldeneye**: 5 May (1 male) Duck R Unit (RS, VS), lrs. **Hooded Merganser**: 29 May (1 ad, 9 yg) Duck R Unit (JH). **Common Merganser**: 18 Mar (1 female) Radnor L (photo fide GG). **Northern Bobwhite**: 31 May (28) Fort Campbell (DMo), max. **Horned Grebe**: 2 Mar (120+) Dale Hollow L, Pickett Co portion (BSc, MM). **Red-necked Grebe**: continuing thru 3 Mar (1) Woods Reservoir (RS, VS, AT). **Common Ground-Dove**: 21-22 May (1) Warren Co (Andy Lantz / Susan McWhirter). **Black-billed Cuckoo**: 30 Apr / 1 May / 7 May (3 / 7 / 2; by nocturnal flight calls) Perry Co (RS); 14 May (1) Duck R Unit (DR, AL); 15 May (1) Cumberland R Bottoms, Montgomery Co (JH). **Eastern Whip-poor-will**: 31 Mar (2) Perry

Co (VS), ers. **Chimney Swift**: 31 Mar (1) Walker Branch SNA (RS, VS), ers. **Ruby-throated Hummingbird**: 27 Mar (1 male) Perry Co (Russ Wells, photo), ers. **Virginia Rail**: 12 Apr (1) Hardin Bottoms (VS). **Purple Gallinule**: 3 May (1) near Lobelville, Perry Co (RS).

*Stilt - Tern*: **Black-necked Stilt**: 17 Apr - 26 May (1-2) Duck R Unit (Don Mullison, m.ob.). **American Avocet**: 23 Apr (52) Edgar Evins SP, DeKalb Co (Mark Taylor, photo). **American Golden-Plover**: 10 Mar (1) Eagleville (RSh, DSh, m.ob.); 6 Apr (1) Duck R Unit (RS). **Ruddy Turnstone**: 16 May (1) Duck R Unit (refuge staff). **Stilt Sandpiper**: 5 May (1) Hardin Bottoms (RS, VS). **Dunlin**: 2-6 Apr (1-3) Duck R Unit (DR, RS); 21 Apr (1) Hardin Bottoms (RS, VS). **White-rumped Sandpiper**: 5 May (1) Hardin Bottoms (RS, VS); 9 May (1) Clay L, Wilson Co (JN); 21 / 25 May (1) Duck R Unit (DR / JH). **Pectoral Sandpiper**: 26 Mar (210) Hardin Bottoms (VS), max. **Short-billed Dowitcher**: 9 / 12 May (5 / 1) Old Hickory L (GG, m.ob.); 11 May (8) Clay L, Wilson Co (JN). **Long-billed Dowitcher**: 27 Apr (2) Duck R Unit (RS, VS, AT). **Wilson's Snipe**: 29 Mar / 12 Apr (175) Hardin Bottoms (VS), max. **Spotted Sandpiper**: 31 Mar (1) Wilson Co (JN), ers. **Solitary Sandpiper**: 29 Mar (1) Montgomery Co (JH) and (1) Wilson Co (JN), ers. **Greater Yellowlegs**: 26 Mar (175) Hardin Bottoms (VS), max. **Willet**: 8 May (7) Cumberland R, Stewart Co (JH); 9 May (10) Old Hickory L (GG, FF, MS, PDC); 20 May (5) Duck R Unit (refuge staff). **Wilson's Phalarope**: 3-5 May (3-4) Cross Cr NWR (DR, AL, Stanley York); 4-5 May (3) Hardin Bottoms (RS, VS); 9 May (1) Eagleville (KB, photo). **Laughing Gull**: 2 May (1 im) Old Hickory L (GG); 9-10 May (1-2 ad) Old Hickory L (FF, GG, CA, m.ob.). **Franklin's Gull**: 5 May (1 ad) Old Hickory L (Ken Oeser, photo, m.ob.). **Bonaparte's Gull**: 9 May (1) Old Hickory L (GG, FF, MS, PDC), lrs. **Herring Gull**: 5-12 May (1-2 im) Old Hickory L (JW, m.ob.), lrs. **Lesser Black-backed Gull**: 8 Mar (1 ad) Pickwick L (RS, VS); 3 May (1 im) Old Hickory L (FF, GG, CA), a new late spring date in the state. **Caspian Tern**: 24 Mar / 28 Apr (2 / 53) Pickwick L (RS, VS), ers / max. **Common Tern**: 3 May (1) Duck R Unit (RS).

*Loon - Falcon*: **Red-throated Loon**: 8 Mar (2 ad) Pickwick L (RS, VS). **Common Loon**: 27 May (1) Tim's Ford L, Franklin Co (Bryan Kurtz, photo), lrs. **Neotropic Cormorant**: 10 May (1) Duck R Unit (AT, RS, VS). **Anhinga**: 1 May (1) Trousdale Co (CA); 10-29 May (2-3, at nest) Duck R Unit (AT, RS, VS, m.ob.). **American White Pelican**: 8 Mar (32) Pickwick L (RS, VS); 13 Mar (100) Woods Reservoir (BD); thru 26 Apr (max 468+ on 9 Mar) Old Hickory L, Sumner / Wilson Cos (JW, m.ob.); 10 Mar (85) Cheatham L, Cheatham Co (JH); 12 Mar - 25 May (up to 270) Duck R Unit (DR et al.). **Brown Pelican**: 16 Mar (1) Duck R Unit (RS). **American Bittern**: 25 / 31 Mar (1) Walker Branch SNA (AT / RS, VS); 12 Apr / 4 May (1) Hardin Bottoms (VS, RS); 20 Apr (1) marsh on Walter S. Davis Blvd, Nashville (Scott Block). **Least Bittern**: 10 May (2) Duck R Unit (AT, RS, VS); 28 May (1) Walker Branch SNA (Allan Trently). **Snowy Egret**: 19-20 Apr (1) Fall Cr, Wilson Co (JN); 19 Apr (1) Old Hickory L (JW, GG); 5 May (1) Bell's Bend (Barbara Harris). **Little Blue Heron**: 28 Apr (1) Bell's Bend (Tony Lance, m.ob.). **Cattle Egret**: 16 Mar (1) Humphreys Co (RS), ers. **Yellow-crowned Night-Heron**: 21 Mar (1) Discovery Wetlands, Rutherford Co (Hugh Barger), ers. **Osprey**: 11 Mar (1) Percy Priest L, Davidson Co (GG), ers. **Swallow-tailed Kite**: 16 Apr (1) Wilson Co (Robin Nation, JN, photo). **Golden Eagle**: 5 Mar (1 ad)

Cherry Bottoms, Humphreys Co (RS, VS); 15 Mar (1 im) Maury Co (Tommy Edwards). **Mississippi Kite**: 27 Apr / 29 May (1 / 8) Duck R Unit (RS, VS, AT / JH), ers / max; 3 May (1) Johnsonville SP, Humphreys Co (RS); 3 May (2) Maddox, Hardin Co (RDH, DMy); 16 / 23 May (1 / 2) Clarksville (SW / Sharon Arnold, JH); 17 May (2) Dickson Co (DR); 18 May (1) Perry Co (AT). **Broad-winged Hawk**: 23 Mar (1) Duck R Unit (AT), ers. **Short-eared Owl**: continuing thru 12 Mar (1-2) Eagleville (KB, m.ob.). **Merlin**: 31 Mar (1) Pickwick L (RS, VS); 4 Apr (1) Wilson Co (JN); 10 Apr (1) Hickman Co (RS); 22 Apr (1) Marshall Co (RS); 27 Apr (1) Duck R Unit (RS, VS, AT). **Peregrine Falcon**: 1 Mar (1) Pickwick L (AL); 28 Mar (1) Robertson Co (RS, VS); 3 May (1) Duck R Unit (RS).

*Flycatcher - Blackbird*: **Eastern Kingbird**: 6 Apr (1) Duck R Unit (RS), ers. **Scissor-tailed Flycatcher**: 5 Apr (1) Lytle Cr Rd, Rutherford Co (Stephen Zipperer); 18 Apr (1) Wartrace, Bedford Co (Melissa Turentine); 21 Apr thru season (2 pairs) Clifton, Wayne Co (RS, VS); 22 Apr thru season (2) Lebanon, Wilson Co (CA, m.ob.); 5 May (2 pairs) Hardin Bottoms (RS, VS); 16 May (1) Fort Campbell (DMo); 24 May (1) Hwy 41 / Epps Mill Rd, Rutherford Co (John St Clair, photo). **Olive-sided Flycatcher**: 4 May (1) Radnor L (RHC); 8 May (1) Palmyra, Montgomery Co (Stanley York); 20 May (1) Fort Campbell (DMo). **Alder Flycatcher**: 16 May (1) Shelby Park and Bottoms (PDC); 22 May (1) Fort Campbell (DMo). **Least Flycatcher**: 17 Apr (1) Radnor L (GG et al.), ers. **Bell's Vireo**: 8-31 May (1-2) Fort Campbell (DMo). **Yellow-throated Vireo**: 6 Apr (1) Duck R Unit (RS), ers. **Warbling Vireo**: 11 Apr (1) Nashville (RHC), ers. **Fish Crow**: 8 Mar (8) Pickwick L (RS, VS); 30 May (2) Barkley WMA, Stewart Co (SW). **Bank Swallow**: 13 Apr (3) Old Hickory L (PDC, MS), ers. **Barn Swallow**: 3 Mar (1) Woods Reservoir (RS, VS, AT), ers. **Sedge Wren**: 27 Apr (1) Duck R Unit (RS, VS, AT). **Marsh Wren**: 27 Apr (3) Duck R Unit (RS, VS, AT). **Blue-gray Gnatcatcher**: 16 Mar (1) Sumner Co (BSc), ers. **Veery**: 20 May (1) Fort Campbell (DMo), lrs. **Swainson's Thrush**: 18 Apr (1) Warner Parks, Davidson Co (Melinda Welton), ers. **Purple Finch**: 2 Mar (80+, at feeder) Smith Co (CA); 17 Mar (78+, at feeder) Perry Co (AT); 12 May (1) Radnor L (FF), late; 21 May (1, sick) Williamson Co (Kathy Malone), lrs. **Red Crossbill**: 24 Apr (1) Fort Campbell, Stewart Co (DMo). **Pine Siskin**: 18 Apr / 18 May (27 / 1; at feeder) Davidson Co (GG), max / lrs. **Lark Sparrow**: 5 Apr (1) Lytle Cr Rd, Rutherford Co (Stephen Zipperer); 18 Apr (1) Wilson Co (JN); 26 Apr (1) Cowan, Franklin Co (Angus Pritchard); 12 / 31 May (1-2) Rock Rd / Hwy 127, Coffee Co (RSh, DSh et al.). **Henslow's Sparrow**: 25 Mar thru season (4-13) Fort Campbell (DMo); 10 May (3) Shelton Ferry WMA, Montgomery Co (SW). **Bobolink**: 18 Apr (3) Hardin Bottoms (VS), ers; 20 May (22) Fort Campbell (DMo), max. **Orchard Oriole**: 11 Apr (1) Radnor L (GG, Kevin Bowden), ers. **Brewer's Blackbird**: 3 Mar (1) Fort Campbell (DMo); 5 Mar (1) Cherry Bottoms, Humphreys Co (RS, VS); 24 Mar (7) Perry Co (RS, VS); 6 Apr (1) Duck R Unit (RS).

*Warbler - Bunting*: **Louisiana Waterthrush**: 11 Mar (1) Radnor L (Jan Shaw), ers. **Northern Waterthrush**: 19 Apr (1) Davidson Co (GG), ers. **Blue-winged Warbler**: 11 Apr (1) Radnor L (GG, Kevin Bowden), ers. **Golden-winged Warbler**: 3 May (1) Cross Cr NWR (DR, AL). **Black-and-white Warbler**: 1 Apr (1) Clarksville (J.T. Wathen), ers. **Tennessee Warbler**: 12

Apr (2) Duck R Unit (RS), ers. **Connecticut Warbler**: 12-18 May (1-2) Radnor L (CAS, FF, GG, m.ob.); 16 May (1) Shelby Park and Bottoms (GG). **Mourning Warbler**: 5 May (2) Shelby Park and Bottoms (MS); 11-18 May (1-2) Radnor L (CAS, GG, m.ob.). **Cape May Warbler**: 11 Mar (1) Smyrna, Rutherford Co (Carole Swann, photo), early, if not wintering nearby. **Northern Parula**: 24 Mar (2) Pickwick L (RS, VS), ers. **Blackburnian Warbler**: 12 Apr (1) Putnam Co (Mark Taylor), ers. **Black-throated Blue Warbler**: 5 May (1) Radnor L (CAS). **"Yellow" Palm Warbler**: 3 May (1) Cross Cr NWR (DR, AL). **Yellow-throated Warbler**: 24 Mar (2) Pickwick L (RS, VS), ers. **Prairie Warbler**: 6 Apr (1) Wilson Co (JN), ers. **Black-throated Green Warbler**: 30 Mar (3) Radnor L (Joel Bruyere), ers. **Canada Warbler**: 21 Apr (1) Radnor L (RS, VS), ers. **Wilson's Warbler**: 26 Apr (1) Radnor L (Jim Arnett), ers; 16 May (1) Fort Campbell (DMo), lrs. **WESTERN TANAGER**: continuing thru 23 Mar (1) Wilson Co (m.ob.). **Rose-breasted Grosbeak**: 11 Apr (1) Williamson Co (Brian Hendrix), ers. **Indigo Bunting**: 7 Apr (1) Perry Co (RS), ers. **Painted Bunting**: 30 Apr (1 female) Bark Camp Barrens WMA, Coffee Co (SW). **Dickcissel**: 8 May (22) Fort Campbell (DMo), max.

*Locations*: Bell's Bend - Davidson Co; Cross Cr NWR - Stewart Co; Duck R Unit - unit of Tennessee NWR, Humphreys Co; Eagleville - Rutherford Co; Fort Campbell - Montgomery Co (unless specified otherwise); Hardin Bottoms - Perry Co; Old Hickory L - Davidson Co (unless specified otherwise); Pickwick L - Hardin Co; Radnor L - Davidson Co; Shelby Park and Bottoms - Davidson Co; Walker Branch SNA - Hardin Co; Woods Reservoir - Franklin Co.

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CUMBERLAND PLATEAU / RIDGE and VALLEY REGION - - Although March was slightly cooler than normal, April and May were considerably warmer than expected. Rainfall was near normal in March and May, but more than 2 inches above normal in April.

The most exciting event of the season was the mini-invasion of Black-bellied Whistling-Ducks with six reports spanning the region from Hamilton County to Sullivan County. There had been just two previous regional records, both from Hawkins County in 2015 and 2017. This species is well known for far-ranging wanderlust, but why so many here in one season? Furthermore, given that there was only one report in Middle Tennessee this spring, could it be that this invasion originated from the rapidly growing population in Florida and south Georgia rather than the Texas and Louisiana population?

A Common Gallinule perched in a tree on Lookout Mountain must have been a strange sight, while other gallinules were found in more appropriate wetlands at Phipps Bend. Highlights among shorebirds were two reports of American Avocet, four reports of Willet, and single reports each of Upland Sandpiper and Wilson's Phalarope. Other notable waterbirds included all three scoters, a pair of Long-tailed Ducks, a handful of Common Mergansers, a Laughing Gull, a Brown Pelican, and numerous lingering American White Pelicans.

A Western Tanager visited a feeder in Greeneville for several days. Scissor-tailed Flycatchers returned to some known breeding sites. The warbler flight was generally on the light side; however, a cooperative Connecticut Warbler at Seven Islands State Birding Park delighted many observers for four days. A female Painted Bunting was netted and banded in Hamilton County, apparently the first of this species to be banded in the state.

*Waterfowl - Crane*: **Black-bellied Whistling-Duck**: 7 May (9) Harrison Bay SP, Hamilton Co (Matt Vawter, Jordan Brison, BD, photo); 12 May (7) Lakeshore Park, Roane Co (Mike Ryon, m.ob., photo); 17-20 May (1) Hwy 411 pond, near Maryville, Blount Co (Geoffrey White, photo, m.ob.); 18 May (4) Middlebrook L, Sullivan Co (Bryan Stevens, m.ob., photo); 24 May (1) Rankin Bottoms, Cocke Co (Ron Shrieves); 30 May (2) Eagle Bend fish hatchery (RDH, DMy); another small flock just across the state line in Abingdon, Virginia, must have flown through East Tennessee. **Greater White-fronted Goose**: 4-8 Mar (2) Knox Co (JO, MM); 5-9 Mar (6) Austin Springs (RRK, JDA, m.ob.). **Northern Shoveler**: 27 May (1) Heritage Center Greenway (RoK), lrs. **Canvasback**: 8 Mar (16) Boone L (RLK). **Redhead**: 4 Mar (128) Chickamauga L (BD), max. **Surf Scoter**: 24 Apr (1 female) Watts Bar L (RoK). **White-winged Scoter**: 3-17 Mar (1-2) South Holston R, Sullivan Co (Jerry Bevins, m.ob.); 4-23 Mar (1) Jonesborough, Washington Co (RLK). **Black Scoter**: 17 Apr (1 male, 2 females) Tennessee R, Roane Co (RoK, photo). **Long-tailed Duck**: 4 Mar (2) Boone L (BP, Jean Potter, m.ob.). **Common Goldeneye**: 19 Apr (1) Watts Bar L (RDH, DMy), lrs. **Hooded Merganser**: 26 May (1) Limestone (RLK), lrs. **Common Merganser**: 2-5 Mar / 4 May (1 male, 3 females) Austin Springs (RLK, m.ob.); 6 / 25 Mar (1 female) Boone L (Michele Sparks / RMC); 9 Mar (1 male) South Holston R, Sullivan Co (Adrianna Nelson). **Yellow-billed Cuckoo**: 17 Apr (1) Kyker Bottoms (RW), ers. **Black-billed Cuckoo**: 30 Apr (1) John Sevier L (SHu); 3 May (1) Johnson City (David Kirschke); 5 May (1) Sewanee, Franklin Co (Angus Pritchard); 7-16 May (1-2) Heritage Center Greenway (RoK); 7 May (2) Cross Mtn (CE). **Virginia Rail**: 16 Mar - 13 Apr (1-2) Kyker Bottoms (RW, m.ob.); 20-23 Mar (1) Heritage Center Greenway (CE, EBo); 21 Mar (1) Bowater Ponds, McMinn Co (RDH, DMy); 31 Mar (1) Alcoa, Blount Co (TH); 2-22 Apr (2) Kingsport (BFi, m.ob.); 9 May (1) Lookout Mtn (BD). **Sora**: 17 Mar (1) Alcoa, Blount Co (TH), ers. **Common Gallinule**: 24 Apr (1, perched in tree) Lookout Mtn (BD, photo by Pixie and Gary Lanham); 14-21 May (3-4) Phipps Bend (BFi, photo, m.ob.). **Sandhill Crane**: 13-14 Apr (1) John Sevier L (SHu); 20 Apr (1) Knox Co (JO); lrs.

*Avocet - Tern*: **American Avocet**: 30 Apr (14) Brainerd Levee, Hamilton Co (BD, m.ob.); 10 May (1) John Sevier L (SHu). **American Golden-Plover**: 8-13 Apr (3-1) Knox Co (JO, m.ob.). **Upland Sandpiper**: 4 May (1) Chattanooga (KAC). **Pectoral Sandpiper**: 3 Mar (2) Camp Jordan, Hamilton Co (BD), ers. **Spotted Sandpiper**: 25 Mar (1) L Tansi, Cumberland Co (Ed LeGrand), ers. **Willet**: 24 Apr (53) Cove Lake SP, Campbell Co (NeM, Tony Headrick, MM, m.ob.); 24 Apr (8) Eagle Bend fish hatchery, Anderson Co (BSc, MM); 25 Apr (15) Tennessee R, Admiral Farragut Park, Knox Co (BSc, m.ob.); 26 Apr (5) Boone L (RLK, m.ob.). **Wilson's Phalarope**: 26 Apr (1) Gupton Wetland (Robert Hunt, photo). **Laughing Gull**: 19 Apr (1) Chickamauga L (S.K. Jones, photo). **Caspian Tern**: 31 Mar (1)

Lakeshore Park, Roane Co (RoK), ers. **Common Tern**: 5 May (2) Boone L (RLK). **Forster's Tern**: 28 Mar (1) John Sevier L (SHu), ers.

*Loon - Falcon*: **Common Loon**: 28 Mar (171) Watts Bar L (RoK), max; 20 May (1) Kingsport (BFi), lrs. **Double-crested Cormorant**: 13 May (20 nests) South Holston R, Kingsport (RLK), continued growth of colony. **Brown Pelican**: 13 May (1) Nickajack L, Marion Co (KAC); 25 May (1) Chickamauga L (Denise Neuendorf, photo on eBird); possibly the same bird. **American White Pelican**: thru 15 Mar (30-45) Ish Cr Bay on Fort Loudoun L, Blount Co (RW, m.ob.); thru mid Mar (100-200) Hiwassee Refuge, Meigs Co (m.ob.); 19 Mar (250) Chickamauga L (Pixie Lanham, Gary Lanham); 27 Mar (12) Fort Loudoun L, Knox Co (Valerie Wininger); 28 Mar (201) Watts Bar L (RoK); 14 Apr (1) Chickamauga L (S.K. Jones). **American Bittern**: 16 Mar - 20 Apr (1-2) Kyker Bottoms (RW, m.ob.); 14 Apr / 4 May (1) Standifer Gap Marsh, Hamilton Co (Michael Yablick, Louise Venne / Tommie Rogers); 2 May (1) Polk Co (Rick Houlk, photo); 4-5 May (1) Austin Springs (RLK et al.); 6 May (1) Sequatchie Co (RSh, DSh). **Least Bittern**: 16-29 May (1-2) Heritage Center Greenway (MM, m.ob.). **Snowy Egret**: 9-16 Apr (1) Amnicola Marsh (BD, m.ob.); 11-12 May (1) White's Mill Refuge, Blount Co (Warren Bielenberg). **Little Blue Heron**: 5 Apr (1 ad) John Sevier L (SHu); 21 Apr (1 ad) Kingsport (BFi, Sherrie Quillen); 27 Apr (1 ad) Bear Cr Pond, Roane Co (RoK); 30 Apr / 17 May (4 ad, 2 occupied nests) Barker Is, Watts Bar L, Rhea Co (RSh, DSh), in a large mixed rookery. **Cattle Egret**: 3 Apr (1) Camp Jordan, Hamilton Co (Janice Chadwell, m.ob.), ers; 25 Apr (1) Limestone (RRK, JDA), rare in NE Tennessee. **Yellow-crowned Night-Heron**: 26 Mar thru season (1-4) Kingsport (BFi et al.); 11 Apr (1) Maryville Greenway, Blount Co (RW). **Osprey**: 25 Apr (pair, nest building) Cove Lake SP, Campbell Co (Eric Johnson, NeM), first nesting at this site, but attempt later failed. **Mississippi Kite**: 25 May (1) Kyker Bottoms (Valerie Wininger). **Broad-winged Hawk**: 3 Apr (1) Hamilton Co (BD), ers. **Merlin**: 2 Mar (1) Kyker Bottoms (RW); 9 Mar (1) John Sevier L (SHu); 13 Mar / 12 Apr / 22 Apr (1) Lookout Mtn (BD); 13 Mar (1) Gupton Wetland (EBo); 16 Mar (1) McMinn Co (RSh, DSh); 11 Apr (1) Blount Co (Warren Bielenberg). **Peregrine Falcon**: 16 Mar (1) Seven Islands SP, Knox Co (MM); 24 Mar (1) Forks of the River WMA, Knox Co (Howard Haysom); 20 Apr (1) Gupton Wetland (MM).

*Flycatcher - Oriole*: **Scissor-tailed Flycatcher**: 18 Apr - 31 May (pair, nest) East Valley Rd, Sequatchie Co (RSh, DSh); 25 Apr (1) Swafford Chapel, Bledsoe Co (RSh, DSh); 10-31 May (pair, nest) Nine-mile Crossroad, Bledsoe Co (RSh, DSh). **Yellow-bellied Flycatcher**: 4 May (1) Knox Co (Chris Welsh). **Alder Flycatcher**: 16 May (1) Heritage Center Greenway (RoK). **White-eyed Vireo**: 25 Mar (1) Kyker Bottoms (Doug Raybuck), ers. **Yellow-throated Vireo**: 21 Mar (1) Flipper Bend on Mobray Mtn, Hamilton Co (DA), new early arrival date in state. **Blue-headed Vireo**: 12 Mar (1) Indian Mtn SP, Campbell Co (NeM), ers. **Philadelphia Vireo**: 15 May (1) Roane Co (RDH, DMy); scarce in East Tennessee in spring. **Red-eyed Vireo**: 10 Apr (1) Craven's House, Hamilton Co (KAC), ers. **Fish Crow**: thru season (1-2) Kingsport (BFi et al.); 12 / 24 Mar (4 / 20+) Johnson City (David Kirschke / Larry McDaniel); 12 Mar (5) Middlebrook L, Bristol (RRK, JDA et al.); 3 Apr (1) Tri-cities Airport, Sullivan Co (Cade Campbell); continued increase in Tri-cities region. **Common Raven**: 1 Mar - 14 May

(1) Phipps Bend (Gary Bailey, BFi); thru 2 Apr (1-2) Kingsport (m.ob.); 9 Mar (1) Limestone (RLK); 9 Apr (3 yg in nest) Bristol Motor Speedway, Sullivan Co (Michele Sparks), 22 Apr - 6 May (1-2) Cross Mtn (Evan Buck, CE, NeM); 26 Apr (1) Boone L (RLK); 2 May (2) Johnson City (RLK). **Horned Lark**: 14 May (2) Limestone (RLK). **Northern Rough-winged Swallow**: 1 Mar (1) Brainerd Levee, Hamilton Co (BD), ers. **Cliff Swallow**: 1 Mar (1) Amnicola Marsh (BD), ers. **Barn Swallow**: 1 Mar (1) Amnicola Marsh (BD), ers. **Red-breasted Nuthatch**: 21 May (1) Point Park, Lookout Mtn (BD), lrs. **Sedge Wren**: 16 Mar (1) Chattanooga (BD). **Veery**: 22 Apr (1) Lookout Mtn (BD), ers. **Wood Thrush**: 30 Mar (1) Lookout Mtn (Kent DuBois), ers. **Gray Catbird**: 24 Mar (1) Amnicola Marsh (Louise Venne, Michael Yablick), ers. **Cedar Waxwing**: early winter thru Apr (very scarce) Tri-cities region (RLK). **Vesper Sparrow**: 4 Apr (6) Heritage Center Greenway (RoK), max. **Baltimore Oriole**: from mid Feb thru 3 Apr (1, at feeder) Bledsoe Co (RSh, DSh).

*Warbler - Dickcissel*: **Worm-eating Warbler**: 4 Apr (1) Lookout Mtn (BD), ers. **Louisiana Waterthrush**: 16 Mar (2) Seymour, Sevier Co (Mark Armstrong), ers. **Golden-winged Warbler**: 13 Apr (1) Greenway Farm, Hamilton Co (DA); 7 May (4) Cross Mtn (CE). **Black-and-white Warbler**: 25 Mar (1) Lookout Mtn (BD), ers. **Swainson's Warbler**: 11 Apr (1) Chattanooga Nature Center (Tommie Rogers), ers. **Connecticut Warbler**: 18-21 May (1) Seven Islands SP, Knox Co (Chris Welsh, m.ob.). **Common Yellowthroat**: 28 Mar (1) Standifer Gap Marsh, Hamilton Co (Kent DuBois), continuation of wintering bird? **American Redstart**: 9 Apr (1) Sharp's Ridge (EBo), ers. **Cape May Warbler**: 15 Apr (1) Sharp's Ridge (EBo, Colin Sumrall et al.), ers. **Cerulean Warbler**: 19 Apr (1) Washington Co (Jonathan Lugo, David Lugo), very scarce in NE Tennessee in recent years. **Blackburnian Warbler**: 12 Apr (1) Sharp's Ridge (Stephany McNew et al.) and (1) Lookout Mtn (BD), ers. **Black-throated Blue Warbler**: 14 Apr (1) Knox Co (Colin Sumrall), ers; 6 May (1) Sewanee, Franklin Co (Angus Pritchard). **Black-throated Green Warbler**: 28 Mar (1) Lookout Mtn (BD), ers. **Scarlet Tanager**: 10 Apr (1) Seymour, Sevier Co (Mark Armstrong), ers. **WESTERN TANAGER**: 29 Mar - 3 Apr (1 male, at feeder) Greeneville, Greene Co (Jim Holt, m.ob., photo). **Rose-breasted Grosbeak**: 13 Apr (1) Sharp's Ridge (BSc et al.), ers. **Indigo Bunting**: 9 Apr (1) Bays Mtn, Sullivan Co (Gary Bailey), new early arrival date in NE Tennessee. **Painted Bunting**: 3 May (1 female, banded) Greenway Farm, Hamilton Co (DA, photo). **Dickcissel**: 27 Apr (1) Hamilton Co (Kent DuBois), ers; also reported from Bledsoe, Blount, Bradley, Greene, Hawkins, Meigs, Polk, Rhea, Roane, Sequatchie, and Washington Cos (m.ob.).

*Locations*: Amnicola Marsh - Hamilton Co; Austin Springs - Washington Co; Boone L - Sullivan Co; Chickamauga L - Hamilton Co; Cross Mtn - Campbell Co; Gupton Wetland - Roane Co; Heritage Center Greenway - Roane Co; John Sevier L - Hawkins Co; Johnson City - Washington Co; Kingsport - Sullivan Co; Kyker Bottoms - Blount Co; Limestone - Washington Co; Lookout Mtn - Hamilton Co; Phipps Bend - Hawkins Co; Sharp's Ridge - Knox Co; Watts Bar L - Roane Co portion (unless specified otherwise).

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EASTERN MOUNTAIN REGION - - March was a little cooler than normal, but April and May were quite a bit warmer than normal. March received near normal rainfall, while April was about 2 inches above normal and May was about 1 inch below normal in precipitation.

Adult Common Mergansers with 13 young were seen near Townsend as breeding for this species continues in that area. A single Eared Grebe appeared at South Holston Lake in mid March following a lack of reports all winter; the species has wintered regularly at this site for more than 20 years. Alder Flycatchers in early May at the same location in Shady Valley that Willow Flycatchers nest was an interesting find. Scarce during winter, Purple Finches made a more sizable showing this spring.

*Duck - Tern*: **Lesser Scaup**: thru Mar (12) Shady Valley (John Shumate), good number at this location. **Bufflehead**: thru Mar (7) Shady Valley (John Shumate), good number at this location; 6 May (3) Wilbur L, Carter Co (BP, Jean Potter), lrs. **Common Goldeneye**: 4 Mar (2) South Holston R Weir, Sullivan Co (RLK), only report. **Common Merganser**: 13 Mar (3 males, 2 females) and 1 May (pair) Middle Prong of Little Pigeon R, Sevier Co (KW); 5 Apr (2) Little R, Blount Co (RW); 18 Apr (2) Citico Cr, Monroe Co (RDH, DMy); 4 May (1 female) Watauga R, Carter Co (Bryan Stevens); 30 May (4 ad, 13 yg) Little R, near Townsend, Blount Co (Mike Wink, photo). **Red-breasted Merganser**: 5 Apr (11) South Holston L (RLK), max. **Eared Grebe**: 12 / 19 Mar (1) South Holston L (RRK et al.), only report this winter. **Sora**: 4-15 May (1-4) Orchard Bog in Shady Valley (RRK, Harry Lee Farthing, Richard Lewis, m.ob.). **Black-billed Cuckoo**: 4-25 May (1-2) Hampton Cr Cove (FJA, Kevin Brooks et al.); 17 / 25 May (1) Shady Valley (RHC / Cade Campbell); 25 May (1) near Cosby in GSMNP (Gregoriah Hartman). **American Woodcock**: 1 Apr (1 ad, nest with 4 eggs) Shady Grove, Sevier Co (Russell Clabo, photo); 3 Apr (1) Carver's Gap on Roan Mtn (RLK); 15 May (1) Shady Valley (RLK). **Spotted Sandpiper**: 30 May (1) Watauga R, Carter Co (RRK), lrs. **Caspian Tern**: 31 Mar / 5 May (1 / 2) South Holston L (RLK). **Forster's Tern**: 4 / 5 May (3 / 13) South Holston L (RRK, Harry Lee Farthing, Glen Eller / RLK).

*Egret - Falcon*: **Great Egret**: 24 Mar (1) Shady Valley (John Shumate). **Yellow-crowned Night-Heron**: 11 Apr thru season (2) Elizabethton, Carter Co (FJA, Kevin Brooks et al.). **Broad-winged Hawk**: 3 Apr (2) Pittman Center, Sevier Co (KW), ers. **Northern Saw-whet Owl**: 4 May (2) Unaka Mtn, Unicoi Co (JHM); 14 May (2) Newfound Gap, GSMNP (RS, VS). **Eastern Whip-poor-will**: 24 Mar (1) Wilbur L, Carter Co (BP), ers. **Red-bellied Woodpecker**: 30 Apr (1) Roan Mtn, at 4450 ft (RLK), unusual at this elevation. **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker**: 31 Mar - 3 Apr (1, on territory) Roan Mtn SP, in cabins area (Frank Enders); 26 May (1) Cosby, Cocke Co (Kathryn Barrow). **Merlin**: 29 Mar (1) Elizabethton, Carter Co (Faith Reaves, photo). **Peregrine Falcon**: thru season (pair) Doe R Gorge, Carter Co (Pete Range, RLK); 15 Apr (pair) Margarette Falls, Greene Co (Drew Dickert); Apr thru May (1-2) Alum Cave Bluff, GSMNP (KW).

*Flycatcher - Siskin*: **Alder Flycatcher**: 6 / 15 May (2 / 1) Orchard Bog in Shady Valley (Merrill Lynch / RLK); 7 May (1) Hampton Cr Cove (RLK); 23 May (3) Carver's Gap on Roan Mtn (RRK et al.). **Willow Flycatcher**: 15 May (4) Orchard Bog in Shady Valley (RLK), max.

**Least Flycatcher**: 25 May (6) Holston Mtn, Carter / Sullivan Cos (Rob Biller, RMC), max. **Blue-headed Vireo**: 17 Mar (1) Greenbrier, GSMNP (KW), ers. **Common Raven**: 12 May (2) Hiwassee R, Spring Cr Rd, Polk Co (Rick Houlk). **Bank Swallow**: 14 May (1) Newfound Gap, GSMNP (RS, VS). **Black-capped Chickadee**: 14 May (28) Clingman's Dome, GSMNP (RS, VS), max. **Cedar Waxwing**: very scarce from mid winter thru Apr. **Purple Finch**: 2-5 Apr (40-55) near Hampton, Carter Co (Tom McNeil, Cathy McNeil); early Apr (60+) near Milligan College, Carter Co (FJA); notable influx following very modest numbers thru the winter. **Red Crossbill**: 8 May (2) GSMNP (TH); 14 May (8) Clingman's Dome, GSMNP (RS, VS); 26 May (1) Newfound Gap, GSMNP (Mark Sweeny). **Pine Siskin**: 21 Apr (12) Schoolhouse Gap trail, GSMNP (Evan Buck); 24 Apr thru season (4-10, at feeders) Roan Mtn, at 4450 ft (RLK, m.ob.); 14 May (4) Clingman's Dome, GSMNP (RS, VS).

*Sparrow - Warbler*: **Vesper Sparrow**: 23 May (1) Round Bald, Roan Mtn (RRK, JDA et al.). **Swamp Sparrow**: 15 May (1) Orchard Bog in Shady Valley (RLK), lrs. **Louisiana Waterthrush**: 17 Mar (1) Greenbrier, GSMNP (KW), ers. **Golden-winged Warbler**: 28 Apr thru season (1-5) Hampton Cr Cove (Larry McDaniel, m.ob.); 13 May (1) Big Bald Mtn, Unicoi Co (Chris Kelly). **Prothonotary Warbler**: 11-24 May (1) Cades Cove, GSMNP (Susan Hoyle, m.ob.); 20-28 May (1) Jacob's Cr, South Holston L (JHM, BP, m.ob.), rare in region. **Swainson's Warbler**: 16 Apr (1) Schoolhouse Gap trail, GSMNP (RW), ers. **Cerulean Warbler**: 4 May (1) Dennis Cove, Carter Co (Tom McNeil, Cathy McNeil), only report in northern Cos. **Magnolia Warbler**: 4 May (4) Unaka Mtn, Unicoi Co (JHM), ers at breeding site. **Blackburnian Warbler**: 14 May (14) Clingman's Dome, GSMNP (RS, VS), max. **Prairie Warbler**: 13 Apr (1) Holston Mtn, Sullivan Co (Rob Biller, RMC), ers.

*Locations*: GSMNP - Great Smoky Mtns National Park; Hampton Cr Cove - Carter Co; Roan Mtn - Carter Co; Shady Valley - Johnson Co; South Holston L - Sullivan Co.

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*The Migrant* records observations and studies of birds in Tennessee and adjacent areas.

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